meditative science for promoting holistic human health including-physical, mental and spiritual aspects.

Free textbooks to students

†2006. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether textbooks are distributed to all the children of I to VIII standard, free of cost under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) whether textbooks are also distributed free of cost to the children belonging to general category for class VI to VIII under 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan'; and

(c) if not, by when Government will avoid such discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The guidelines on free textbooks provided under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are targeted to promote elementary education amongst the most disadvantaged sections of society, and are as follows:

(i) To all girls/Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe children at primary and upper Primary level within an upper ceiling of Rs. 150/- per child;

(ii) State Governments to continue to fund free textbooks being provided from the State budgets;

(iii) In case any State Government is partially subsidizing the cost of textbooks being supplied to children in elementary classes, then assistance under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan would be restricted to that portion of the cost of the books which is being borne by children.

Examination on demand system

2007. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to take off the examination pressure on school children, Government propose to introduce 'exams on demand' system where children can take exam as per their convenience; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details and response from the academics and parents to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has introduced 'On-Demand Examination' at Secondary Stage i.e. Class X level on experimental basis. Under the scheme the candidate can appear in the examination whenever she or he feels ready for the same.

For this, a question paper is generated randomly by the computer out of the already developed question bank. The new system has been appreciated by the students, the parents and the academicians.

Cut-Off date for admission in undergraduate courses

2008. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed that the process of admission to all undergraduate professional courses should close by 30th September of the year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

c) whether in some pretext or other, the colleges flout Hon'ble Court's order and admit students long after this cut-off date;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to take measures to ensure that the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of cut-off date for admission to professional courses are strictly complied with by all stake-holders; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.